

The Bank of Florida
106 Adams Street
Tallahassee
Leon County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-159

HABS
FLA
37-TALA,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. FLA-159

THE BANK OF FLORIDA

Location: 106 Adams Street (Lots 183, 184)
Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida

Present Owner: The First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida

Present Occupant: Civil Defense Office and Dental Laboratory

Present Use: Commercial

Brief Statement of Significance: This structure housed the first bank chartered by the State of Florida.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Williams Money Williams, 1828 as the Bank of Florida; 1830 by Benjamin Chaires as the Bank of the State of Florida until 1858; General William Bailey as Central Bank of Florida; Alban Stewart until 1960; First Baptist Church.
2. Date of erection: 1828
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The original, large, single space has been subdivided into two areas; the existing porch is an addition; the present flat ceiling is an addition and covers a vaulted space.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Housed the first bank in the State of Florida. Local tradition holds that Federal troops occupying Tallahassee after the War used this building as a powder magazine.

C. Sources: Chester Lee Craft, Jr. A.I.A.
Tallahassee Historical Society Annual, Vol. 1, 1934.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. A one-story, brick bearing wall structure of Greek Revival style, notable street (east) facade in triple-arch pattern.
2. Condition of fabric: fair, although modified from original.

HABS
FLA
37-TALA
4-

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: 31' front x 61', including stoop.
2. Foundations: Brick foundation walls.
3. Wall construction: Brick bearing wall. Walls scored to resemble rusticated ashlar masonry with 12" x 24" stones, joints painted. Base projects 2". East front elevation has parapet wall; 3-bay facade has arched opening above central doorway, arched recess above each of two windows.
4. Stoops, porches: Stoop with concrete floor has steps of granite blocks varying from 8" x 8" x 12' - 0". Wood porch appears to be an addition, 8" x 8" wood columns with chamfered edges.
5. Chimneys: None in evidence except for stove thimbles in left rear (west) wall.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Entrance doorway (east elevation) has transom. Remaining frame (appears to be original) indicates double doors. Transom has 3 major lights with 12 surrounding lights, flanked by 2 small windows, each one having one large light with eight surrounding lights. Modern doorways into two spaces. Doorway into south elevation appears to have originally been window, exceptional pair of cypress doors, mortised and tenoned joints.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung, 12 over 12 light windows in east and south elevations; casement windows north elevation, two-sash, of 9 lights in each opening.
7. Roof: Roof obscured by vines. Appears to be flat.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor Plans: One floor. Interior space divided into two areas. Originally single space with flat-round vault ceiling.
2. Flooring: 4" wide pine boards
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Wall board and plaster on wood lath, flat plaster ceiling obscures vaulted space.
4. Doorways and doors: None
5. Trim: Interior shutters, paneled to exterior, 2½ folds per side, recessed into jambs. Window trim has heavy entablature, reeded pilasters, plinth blocks, and baseboard. Windows set in splayed openings.

- 6. Hardware: U-shaped metal holder for interior shutter bar. Tie rods with square washers extend through building. HABS
FLA
37-TALA
4-
- 7. Lighting: Electric
- 8. Heating: Electric
- D. Site: Building faces east, alley and parking area south and west; "The Columns" built c. 1835 to north.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves
College of Architecture and Fine Arts
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida
February 1962